Introduction of Units Projects and Assignment in Class IX and XII in Central Schools

1281. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that units, projects and assignments have been introduced in Classes IX and XI of the Kendriya Vidyalayas from the last academic sessions thus resulting in the wastage of lot of time of students involved in these activities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to re-introduce the earlier practice in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The promotion of students to the next higher class in Kendriya Vidyalayas is based on continuous evaluation of their performance throughout the year taking unit tests, projects and assignments as integral parts of this process of evaluation. There has been no recent change in this system.

Review of population policy

1282. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review population policy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the review would yield desired results;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) by when the review will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (e) The National objective is to achieve a balanced growth of population by 2000 AD. The latest Census results have shown that the present growth rate of our population is still over 2 per cent per annum and the Government is seriously concerned about it. In order to curb the high population growth, it is considered imperative to undertake new initiatives. In this context, all aspects of implementation of the Family Welfare Programme are being looked into. This involves gearing up of the entire implementation machinery in close consultation with State/UT Governments, greater emphasis on Maternal and Child Health care Programmes, launching of innovative Information, Education and Communication efforts, improvement in the quality of services, better arrangements for supply and distribution of contraceptives at the doorsteps of acceptors, increased coverage of younger couples with high fertility potential under spacing methods of contraception, institutionalisation of mechanisms for inter-sectoral coordination, initiatives to seek involvement of non-governmental organisations in supplementing and complementing Government efforts in the delivery of Family Welfare services and generation of demand for these services.

Abolition of duty on foreign travel scheme

1283. JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that they loose more foreign exchange due to 15 per cent duty of Foreign Travel Scheme, as this enhances the value of foreign currency in rupees as a result of which most of the N.R.Is. and tourists sell it illegally to private touts for a premium; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to abolish the 15 per cent

duty of Foreign Travel Scheme and adopt other mechanism to curtail the use of Foreign Travel Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Unauthorised sale of Foreign Exchange attracts punishment under the law. Abolition of Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax on travel under Foreign Travel Scheme to obviate illegal sale of foreign exchange by NRIs and tourists is not feasible, mainly due to the reasons that this will be discriminatory to persons undertaking travel for various other purposes coming under the purview of Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

Foreign loan lying unutilised

1248. SHRI KRISHAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loan worths 12 billion is lying unutilised in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the details of the projects for which these loans were negotiated; and

(d) what action is being taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) At the end of June'91, the total undisbursed balance under the World Bank line of assistance was 12.158 billion US dollars.

The undisbursed balance appears large in aggregate terms but is dependent on the time profile of various projects. Apart from gestation period of externally aided projects, delayed utilisation arises from factors which inter alia include exchange rate fluctuations, inadequate counterpart funding by State Government, tardy land acquisition procedures and other project specific issues. Such problems sometimes lead to a delay in utilisation of World Bank assistance which is taken care of through extension/restructuring of projects.

(c) A list of on-going projects with Bank assistance is enclosed.

(d) Implementation delays are addressed through strengthening the counterpart resource support, close monitoring by Ministries with special emphasis on timely procurement action by project authorities and simplification of procedures in respect of released of foreign exchange, tender evaluation etc. In addition projects are being extensively monitored at different levels including the State Governments.

List of on-going Project

US $ Million

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Original Loan Amount	Undrawn balance IBRD/IDA
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	West Bengal Social Forestry	33.7	1.985
2.	Himalayan Watershed Management	30.2	9.310
3.	Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas	38.4	29.134